United Nations Industrial Development Organization

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Vienna, 23-25 June 2015
Item 8 of the provisional agenda
Preparations for the sixteenth session of the General Conference

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Report by the Director General

The present report provides general information on the organization of the work of the sixteenth session of the General Conference, including items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda.

I. Introduction

1. The General Conference of UNIDO is the principal organ of the Organization, consisting of representatives of all Members (Articles 7.1 and 8.1 of the Constitution). The main functions of the Conference are stipulated in Article 8.3 of the Constitution. In particular, the Conference should determine the guiding principles and the policies of the Organization. Unless it decides otherwise, the Conference is to hold a regular session every two years, at the seat of the Organization (Article 8.2). The last regular session (fifteenth) of the Conference was held in Lima, Peru, from 2 to 6 December 2013.

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II. Background information

A. Date and place of the Conference

2. In line with General Conference decision GC.15/Dec.20, the sixteenth session of the General Conference will be held in Vienna from 30 November to 4 December 2015. It is planned that the meetings of the General Conference will take place in the C-building of the Vienna International Centre.

B. Budgetary matters

3. The Organization's resources available for holding the sixteenth session of the Conference, as provided for in the programme and budgets of UNIDO, 2014-2015, total €826,700. The budget of the Conference is based on the following assumptions:

(a) The session will last five working days providing for 10 plenary meetings as well as meetings of the main committee and geographical groups;

(b) Interpretation for plenary and main committee meetings and documentation will be provided in six languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish);

(c) As per Board decision IDB.41/Dec.12 (l), with the suspension of rule 65 of the rules of procedures, summary records will not be provided for the sixteenth session of the Conference.

C. Agenda

4. In accordance with Article 9.4 (g) of the Constitution, the Board prepares the provisional agenda for each session of the General Conference. Rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Conference provides guidelines for the contents of the provisional agenda of a regular session of the Conference. Furthermore, in accordance with rule 12, the Board shall prepare that provisional agenda on the basis of a list of items proposed for inclusion as submitted by the Director General.

5. Annotations indicating briefly the history of each item, the proposed documentation, the substance of the matter to be discussed and earlier relevant decisions by the Conference or other organs of the Organization will be issued following the forty-third session of the Board.

6. A list of items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the Conference is contained in annex I to the present document, together with an indication of relevant mandates for the items. A provisional schedule of work is contained in annex II to the present document.

D. Documentation

7. In accordance with rule 23 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, documents required for consideration of items on the provisional agenda will be

distributed by the Director General in all languages of the Conference to all recipients of the provisional agenda not later than forty-five days before the opening date of the session.

III. Organization of the work of the Conference

8. In keeping with practice of previous sessions of the General Conference, an overarching theme has been developed for the sixteenth session "Sustainable industrialization for shared prosperity".

9. As encouraged by the Conference in resolution GC.9/Res.1, a forum on industrial development issues is foreseen. At the sixteenth session, it is planned to integrate the Forum on inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), as well as the UNIDO donor meeting. The ISID Forum and the donor meeting will take place during plenary meetings to provide an opportunity for high-level participants to communicate their views on selected topics, thereby allowing for a thematic and interregional debate (annex II, proposed schedule of work). In line with resolution GC.9/Res.1, it is suggested that the two events be included in the provisional agenda of the session (annex I, item 9).

10. With a view to enhancing the debate on critical issues, it is proposed to introduce a speaking limit during the general debate of five minutes for Member States and ten minutes for regional groups.

11. At its previous sessions, the Conference established a main committee to which it allocated a number of agenda items. The Board may wish to recommend to the Conference a similar procedure for its sixteenth session, keeping in mind that the possibility of creating additional committees is constrained by the limited resources available (see para. 3 above). Items 7 to 19 of the proposed draft agenda would thus be referred to the main committee for a more focused debate aimed at the preparation of consensus draft decisions and resolutions for submission to the plenary.

12. The work of the previous sessions was also facilitated by setting up, under the guidance of the President of the Board, informal consultations for the preparation of the Conference. Such an informal group, composed of representatives of permanent missions to UNIDO in Vienna, has met prior to previous sessions of the Conference and has prepared a report to the Conference containing recommendations that cover most of the items on the agenda as well as organizational matters.

13. Taking into consideration past experience, the Board may wish to suggest the early commencement of informal consultations chaired by the President of the Board. To facilitate the work of the informal consultations in advance of the General Conference, it is strongly recommended to adopt the successful approach of other organizations in establishing a deadline for the submission of draft decisions and resolutions of three weeks prior to the Conference.

IV. Action required of the Board

14. The Board may wish to consider adopting the following draft decision:

"The Industrial Development Board:

"(a) Takes note of the information provided in document IDB.43/13;

(b) Adopts the following agenda for the sixteenth session of the General Conference:

[...]

(c) Agrees to hold a forum on industrial development issues within the framework of the General Conference (provisional agenda, item 9);

(d) Recommends to the Conference that items 7 to 19 of the provisional agenda be allocated to a main committee of the Conference;

(e) Recommends that, in the light of experience gained in the preparation of previous sessions of the Conference, the President of the forty-third session of the Industrial Development Board conduct informal consultations for the preparation of the sixteenth session of the Conference;

(f) Urges Member States to submit to the informal consultations any proposed draft decisions or resolutions by 6 November 2015."

Annex I

Items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda[1]

General Conference, sixteenth session
30 November to 4 December 2015

		Mandate
1.	Opening of the session.	Rule 34
2.	Election of officers.	Rule 35
3.	Adoption of the agenda.	Rule 17
4.	Organization of work.	Rules 44-47
5.	Credentials of representatives to the Conference.	Rule 28
6.	Elections to organs:	Rule 102
	(a) Industrial Development Board;	Constitution, Article 9.1
	(b) Programme and Budget Committee.	Constitution, Article 10.1
7.	Annual reports of the Director General on the activities of the Organization for 2013 and 2014.	Rule 13.1 (b)
8.	Reports of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its forty-second and forty-third regular sessions.	Constitution, Article 8.3 (b) Rule 13.1 (c)
9.	Forum on industrial development issues.	GC.9/Res.1
10.	Financial matters:	
	(a) Scale of assessments of Member States;	Constitution, Article 15 Rule 13.1 (k)
	(b) Financial situation of UNIDO;	Rule 13.1 (l), IDB.27/Dec.2 (e)
	(c) Working Capital Fund;	Financial regulation 5.4
	(d) Appointment of an External Auditor.	Financial regulation 11.1
11.	Programme and budgets, 2016-2017.	Constitution, Articles 8.3 (c) and 14; Rule 13.1 (i)

[1] To be updated to take account of mandates adopted by the Board at its forty-third session.

		Mandate
12.	Medium-term programme framework, 2016-2019	GC.2/Dec.23, GC.6/Dec.10, GC.13/Res.3, GC.14/Dec.18, GC.15/Dec.17, GC.15/Dec.18
13.	Implementation of the Lima Declaration: Towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development	GC.15/Res.1
14.	UNIDO activities related to energy and the environment.	Proposed by the Director General (rule 13.1 (b))
15.	UNIDO activities related to agribusiness, trade capacity-building and job creation.	Proposed by the Director General (rule 13.1 (b))
16.	UNIDO activities related to the Lima Ministerial Declaration for the Least Developed Countries.	GC.15/Res.6
17.	Personnel matters, including UNIDO Staff Pension Committee.	Staff regulation 13.2, document IDB.43/15 refers GC.1/Dec.37
18.	Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations.	GC.1/Dec.41, annex
19.	Date and place of the seventeenth session.	Rule 13.1 (s)
20.	Closure of the session.	

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Annex II

20 April 2015

General Conference, sixteenth session

30 November to 4 December 2015, Vienna

Overarching theme: "Sustainable industrialization for shared prosperity"

PROPOSED TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF WORK

Monday, 30 November 2015	*Tuesday, 1 December 2015*	*Wednesday, 2 December 2015*	*Thursday, 3 December 2015*	*Friday, 4 December 2015*
	9 a.m. General Committee	9.15-10.15 a.m. Credentials Committee (*tentative*)		
1st plenary meeting 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Opening — General debate Statements by Heads of State and Government	**3rd plenary meeting** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. General debate	**5th plenary meeting** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. General debate	**7th plenary meeting** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. General debate • Credentials of representatives to the Conference (item 5) • Appointment of an External Auditor (item 10 (e)) — (if required)	**9th plenary meeting** or **Main Committee** — 7th meeting 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (if required)
	Main Committee — 1st meeting 10.30 a.m.-1.30 p.m.	**Main Committee** — 3rd meeting 10.15 a.m.-1.15 p.m.	**Main Committee** — 5th meeting 12 noon (*tentative*)	
2nd plenary meeting 3-4 p.m. Keynote speech	**4th plenary meeting** 3-5 p.m. ISID Forum	**6th plenary meeting** 3-6 p.m. Donors meeting	**8th plenary meeting** 3-6 p.m. General debate	**10th plenary meeting** 3-6 p.m. Consideration and adoption of decisions and resolutions
4-6 p.m. Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) Forum	5-6 p.m. Launch of the Industrial Development Report			
	Main Committee — 2nd meeting 3.30-6.30 p.m.	**Main Committee** — 4th meeting 3.30-6.30 p.m.	**Main Committee** — 6th meeting 3.30-6.30 p.m. (*tentative*)	

IDB.43/13